Concession to Handloom Sector

6658. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the year-wise number of representations received by the Union Government from the Cooperative Societies and other organisations of handloom weavers to provide more concessions to them during the last three years till date;

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the details of concessions being given to handloom weavers at present; and

(d) the number of handloom weavers benefitted by these concessions in various States particularly tribal areas of Gujarat till date ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) The Union Government keeps on receiving representations from Cooperative Societies and other Handloom Organisations. The concessions/modifications are made under various schemes from time to time on merit of the case.

(c) Concessions to Handloom Weavers are given under the Schemes like Janata Cloth, Mill Gate Price, Market Development Assistance, Handloom Development Centre/Quality Dyeing Units, Project Package, Workshed-cum-Housing, Thrift Fund, Group Insurance, Health Package etc.

(d) The number of Handloom Weavers benefitted during the VIII Five Year Plan under the Schemes Project Package, Integrated Handloom Village Development, Workshed-cum-Housing, Handloom Development Centres/ Quality Dyeing Unit, Group Insurance, Health Package, Thrift Fund & Margin Money for Destitute Weavers are 47,81,250, out of which 1649 weavers have been benefitted in the tribal areas of Gujarat.

Joint Venture on Textile Project between STC and Israel

6659. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation proposes to set up a joint-venture in textile project with Israel at a cost of US $ 15 million;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government, have clear the above proposal of the State Trading Corporation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) STC submitted a proposal for equity participation for setting up a Knitted Fabrics/Garments Unit in Israel with the project cost of US $ 15 million.

(c) and (d) After detailed examination, it has been conclude not to further process the proposal in terms of overall benefits to the country.

Standing Committee for Promotion of Exports

6660. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has held a series of meeting with all the Chief Ministers to increase their involvement in export;

(b) whether a study cell in this regard was set up in 1994;

(c) whether a Standing Committee for Promotion of Exports has been setup by the States and the Union Territories;

(d) if so, the details thereof State-wise;

(e) whether the Government have asked the States to review and standardise the levies imposed by them on exporters to the extent possible to promote exports; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and to what extent these proposals have helped in boosting exports from the North-East region as well as from other States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Four meetings of Zonal level were convened in Oct.-Nov. 1995 by then Commerce Minister with Chief Ministers/Lt. Governors/Minister/Administrators of States/Union Territories as indicated below :-

(i) Orissa, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands at Hyderabad;

(ii) Assam, Tripura, Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram & Manipur at Guwahati;

(iii) Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu &

Kashmir & UT of Chandigarh at Chandigarh;

(iv) Maharashtra, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat at Mumbai.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) This Ministry is not aware of the setting up of such Committees by State Governments or the Union Territories. However, some states have created staff positions on export promotion.

(e) and (f) Ministry of Commerce had written to State Governments not to levy some local taxes on inputs used for export production/100% Export Oriented Units. The issue was also emphasised by the then Commerce Minister during the meetings mentioned in reply to part (a). Since the Ministry of Commerce does not maintain State-wise data of exports, the effect of various levies on export promotion from individual states cannot be ascertained.

Decline in Production and Export Cardamom

6661. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production and export of cardamom has declined during each of the last three years in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of its percentage as compared to the above period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Goverment to boost the production and the export of cardamom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The production and export of cardamom (Small) have shown a mixed trend during the last 3 years as may be seen from the details given below :-

Year	% (Tonnes)	Production Increase/Decrease over last year	% Qty. (Tonnes)	Increase/ Decrease over last year	% Value (Rs. Crs.)	Export Increase/Decrease over last year
1994-95	7000	6.06	257	-33.59	7.63	-47.56
1995-96	7900	12.86	500	94.55	12.40	62.52
1996-97 (E)	6750	-14.56	240	-52.00	9.21	-25.73

(E) Estimate

Source : Production – Estimate by the Spices Board

Export – DGCI&S Calcutta/Shipping Bills/ Exporters Returns

The decline in production during 1996-97 occurred mainly due to adverse climatic conditions. The fluctuations in exports have been mainly due to stiff price competition offered by Guatemala in the overseas markets.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Government to increase production and export of Cardamom include :-

(i) Production and supply of quality planting material.

(ii) Assistance for replantation of old diseased plants.

(iii) Subsidy for irrigation and land development; and

(iv) Assistance for purchase of plant protection equipment.

(v) Exemption of cess on export of cardamom.

(vi) Reimbusement of air freight charges at the rate of Rs. 20 per kg. for export of small cardamom in consumer packs by air to middle-east destinations.

(vii) Sponsoring trade delegations and participation in trade fairs.

Disinvestment Commission

6662. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the credit rating agencies engaged by the disinvestment commission to study the future profitability, technology levels, share value and other relevant details of the 40 Public Sector Undertakings referred to it by the Core Group of Secretaries for possible disinvestment by the Government has submitted its report;